

CELEBRATING THE LIFE
OF

Sylvester Greenwood



MEMORIAL SERVICE
MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2011 - 11:00 A.M.

BERKELEY MOUNT ZION
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
1400 8TH STREET
BERKELEY, CA. 94710

Rev. Brian D. Hunter, Officiating

FEBRUARY 17, 1945 - JUNE 9, 2011

Obituary

Sylvester Greenwood (affectionately known as Syl) was born February 17, 1945, in Thebes, Arkansas, to Willie L. and Cloattee Greenwood. The family moved to Berkeley, California in 1946 and moved to Richmond in 1953. He attended Berkeley Mount Zion Missionary Baptist until the age of 10, when he united with St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church in Richmond. He returned to Berkeley Mount Zion in 1965. Sylvester became an ordained deacon on October 3, 1971.

Sylvester attended Peres Elementary School and Roosevelt Junior High School. He graduated from Harry Ells High School in 1962. He met the love of his life at Harry Ells in 1960—Brenda Joyce Hurd was a sophomore and Syl was a senior. He attended San Francisco State College, Contra Costa Community College and earned a football scholarship to Fresno State College for the spring semester of 1965. In 1967, he was drafted by the NFL's newest franchise the New Orleans Saints of the National Football League. Upon leaving the NFL, he continued his education at California State University in San Francisco. Sylvester received Bachelor of Arts Degrees in Physical Education and History in 1973. In 1978, he received a Master of Arts Degree in Educational Administration with an Administrative Credential.

On November 26, 1967, Syl and Brenda became husband and wife at St. John Missionary Baptist Church. On May 15, 1971, they became the proud parents of Sylvia Joyce Greenwood. Sylvia was the sparkle in Syl's eye.

Sylvester began his career with the Richmond Unified School District in 1968 as security officer, began his student teaching at Adams Junior High School and taught physical education and history at his alma mater, Harry Ells. His first administrative position was as Dean of Students at De Anza High School. During his tenure with the Richmond Unified School District, Sylvester was appointed Interim Superintendent. He was the first African American to hold this position. Sylvester retired from West Contra Costa Unified School District as the Assistant Superintendent in 2006.

He was a member of the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), past chair of the ACSA State Committee on Urban Affairs, a board member of the Richmond Police Activities League (RPAL), and the Richmond Unified Education Fund, board member and past president of the University of San Francisco Alumni Association, past director of the Richmond Exchange Club, past president of the Richmond Association of School Administrators (RASA), past president of the Board of Directors of the Richmond Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), past chair of the Deacon Board and member of the Trustee Board at Berkeley Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

Syl had a tremendous impact on the lives of children, youth and families in West Contra Costa Community. He was a success story, he was a role model, he was a compassionate teacher and administrator with the school district, he was always willing to support and contribute to worthy causes. Everyone in the community knows "Greenwood." If you ever were with him in the community you would have observed person after person coming up to him and saying "Hey Greenwood...you remember me? I remember the time I came to your office and" This was usually followed by some success story, an update on their life, where they are working now, how their parents are doing, or other updates. Many have gone to see him and have come out as "Greenwood Kids."

Precious memories will be cherished by his loving wife Brenda; his devoted daughter, Dr. Sylvia Greenwood; and his darling niece, Sunobia Amanda Hurd. He also leaves two brothers, Harrison (Mary Jo) and Poley Hood (Patricia) Greenwood; and one sister Versia Dean Greenwood; brother-in-law, Rodney Keith Hurd; and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Order of Service

Musical Prelude.....Deacon Timothy Poston, Sr.

Processional.....Clergy and Family

Devotion.....Deacons of Berkeley Mount Zion

Old Testament	Psalm 138 NIV	Elder Troy Shanklin
New Testament	John 14:1-4 KJV	Reverend Lloyd Farr

Prayer.....Reverend Dwayne D. Eason

Musical Selection	I Know a Man	Choir
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Resolutions and Acknowledgement.....Delores Hill

Reading of Obituary Silently

Solo.....Sharon Poston

~~Tributes~~

As a Co-worker.....Mrs. Anna Blackman

As a Community Worker.....Mr. Don Lau

As a Deacon.....Deacon Clarence Williams

As a Friend.....Reverend J. R. Spearman

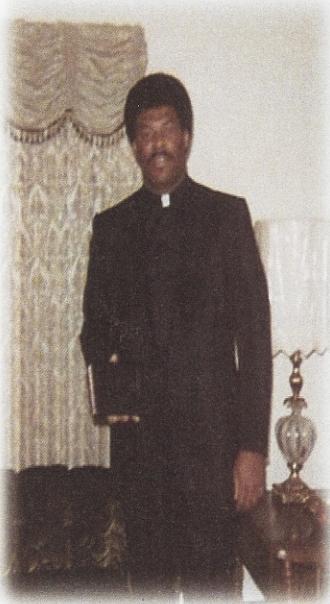
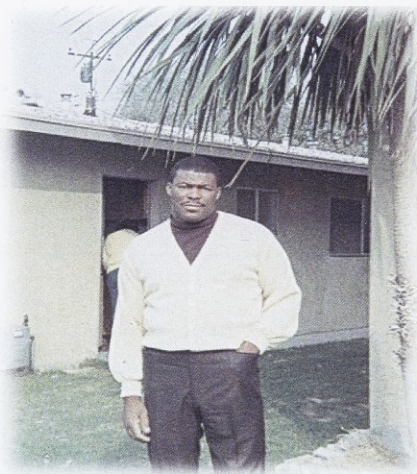
As a Father.....Dr. Sylvia J. Greenwood

Musical Selection.....Choir

Expressions (1 Minute Please)
Limited to Five Speakers

Eulogy.....Dr. M.T. Thompson
Pastor Emeritus Berkeley Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church

Recessional









Footprints

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed
he was walking along the beach with the LORD.

Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.
For each scene he noticed two sets of
footprints in the sand: one belonging
to him, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him,
he looked back at the footprints in the sand.

He noticed that many times along the path of
his life there was only one set of footprints.

He also noticed that it happened at the very
lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he
questioned the LORD about it:

"LORD, you said that once I decided to follow
you, you'd walk with me all the way.
But I have noticed that during the most
troublesome times in my life,
there is only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why when
I needed you most you would leave me."

The LORD replied:

"My son, my precious child,
I love you and I would never leave you.
During your times of trial and suffering,
when you see only one set of footprints,
it was then that I carried you."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to them during this hour of bereavement.

May God Bless and Keep You!

THE GREENWOOD FAMILY



Repast immediately following service in the dining room of
Berkeley Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church

